

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE No. 100-7973

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	NEW YORK DATE WHEN MADE 5-2-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-12; 27-42; 1-8; 4-17, 23; 5-27, 28; 6-24; 7-20, 21; 10-14, 18; 11-5-43; 1-14, 15; 4-10/21-44	REPORT MADE BY JOHN R. VICARS MGM
TITLE RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF, INCORPORATED		CHARACTER OF CASE 64077 INTERNAL SECURITY	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

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Subject organization in Los Angeles was originally incorporated as The Russian War Relief Association of Southern California on 9-16-41 and held inaugural meeting 9-23-41 at the home of LEWIS MILESTONE, film director. HERBERT BIBERMAN and JANE MEAD, both Communists in the Northwest Section, in collaboration with EDWARD C. CARTER, National Chairman-Russian War Relief, and BORIS ENGSTER, reported Fellow Traveler, were leaders in the formation of this group. Since 5-1-42, Southern California Association charter has remained dormant, and local organization operates in accordance with charter of the national organization. HERBERT BIBERMAN directed the strategy behind the policies of the organization until April, 1942, when the organization became well established with innumerable reputable and civic-minded people behind it. JANE MEAD served as Executive Secretary and later Southern California Field Representative, resigning both posts 3-30-43, and was succeeded by MARGARET LORD, who at the present time resides with a Communist. Russian War Relief has undertaken approximately six large rallies, raising thousands of dollars and in addition joined the United Nations War Relief Council and shares proportionately in the finances derived from this agency's annual drive. Numerous small organizations which are not under the jurisdiction of Russian War Relief but allegedly have the same purpose also contribute to Russian War Relief. Staff and Russian War Relief headquarters named and Communist affiliations described.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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writer and novelist, is reported to be a Communist Party member of Branch A, Northwest Section.

Confidential Source G advised Special Agent H. BRUCE BAUMEISTER that IDA HALPERIN admitted being a [redacted]

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[redacted] and that [redacted] at the store at [redacted]

[redacted] According to this source, IDA

HALPERIN is a [redacted] HALPERIN told the informant that the

[redacted] would [redacted]

with an all [redacted] at the Rosemary Theater, 12 Ocean Front, Venice, California, on June 10, 1943. (C) (U)

The "Labor Herald" of June 18, 1943, advised of a drive by members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of Los Angeles to send one thousand kit bags filled with personal articles to Russia for distribution among soldiers of the Red Army. Leaders of the drive were Miss SARAH PIVITZ, Local No. 278, and JEROME POSNER, who called a meeting of shop stewards and chairmen to combine the various shop drives in one big effort. POSNER has been reported active in organizations controlled by the Party.

The motion picture entitled "Our Russian Front", which was produced by JORIS IVENS and LEWIS MILESTONE, was distributed for nationwide showing. It was produced with funds provided by Russian War Relief, Southern California Division. IVENS is reported to be a Dutch Communist who has made films for the Soviet Union, and MILESTONE has been active in Hollywood groups reportedly dominated by the Communist Party.

"News Letter", Volume I No. 3, published by the Southern California Division of Russian War Relief, Incorporated, dated August 1, 1942, carries an article advising that the Music Committee of the Hollywood Committee of Russian War Relief held a SHOSTAKOVICH Concert at the home of NAT FINSTON on Sunday, July 19, 1942. The Music Committee was composed of the following:

Chairman - Mrs. GEORGE BASSMAN

Program Chairman - ALBERT VIRTCHAMP

Invitation Chairman - NAT W. FINSTON

CHARLES PREVIN - Universal Studios

CONSTANTINE BAKALIEVNIKOFF - RKO Studios

C. Y. FEURER - Republic Studios

LEO FORBSTEIN - Warner Brothers Studios

LOUIS LIPSTONE - Paramount Studios

ALFRED NEWMAN - Twentieth Century Fox Studios

MAURICE STOLOFF - Columbia Studios

Of the above, Mrs. GEORGE BASSMAN is reported to be a Communist Party member of the Northwest Section. Others present included the following:

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CHARLES CHAPLIN
EDWARD G. ROBINSON
JOHN GARFIELD
HARPO MARY
GROUCHO MARY
WALTER ABEL
DOROTHY COMINGORE

All of these have been reported to be members of organizations reportedly controlled by the Communist Party. The proceeds totaled \$700.00.

On September 16, 1942, Confidential Source H received a letter from the Bowling Committee of Russian War Relief announcing a bowling carnival to be held Sunday afternoon, October 18, 1942, at the Sunset Bowling Center, Los Angeles. The following people were listed as members of this committee:

Chairman - IDABELLE LEVINE

Invitations Committee:

SIDNEY BUCHMAN
HAROLD LLOYD
FRANK TUTTLE

Mrs. ROBERT LORD - Chairman, Hollywood Division

Of the above, SIDNEY BUCHMAN and FRANK TUTTLE have been reported to be Communist Party members or Fellow Travelers. According to Confidential Source B, this bowling event

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"News Letter", dated July 13, 1942, advised of a meeting in Long Beach on July 9, 1942, resulting in the establishment of a Long Beach Youth Division of Russian War Relief. The officers, according to the "News Letter", were the following:

Chairman - MARY JOE GORDON
 Treasurer - ALICE IRISH
 Recording Secretary - MARY KARUZA
 Chairman of Special Activities - LUCILLE JONES

Of these, GORDON and KARUZA have been reported to be Communist Party members.

COMMUNIST INSTIGATION AND CONTROL

Under the section entitled "Organization" in this report is reported the Communist instigation of instant organization, it being noted therein that HERBERT BIBERMAN was the prime mover in the Los Angeles area of Russian War Relief, ably assisted by JANE MEAD. BIBERMAN reportedly was appointed with JOHN HOWARD LARSON, screen writer, as co-leader of the Communist Party members in the motion picture industry in 1941. He was the Los Angeles

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MARTIN, ALICE	39,
MARTIN, HELEN	39,
MARTIN, JACK	26,
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REYNOLDS, PAT	42,
ROBINSON, EDWARD G.	22,29,32,

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